

**Why Aren't W-2-Like  
FoodShare  
Assistance Groups  
(W-2-LFSAGs)  
on W-2?**

**Or,**

**W-2 Take-up Study**



# Background

**Milwaukee County Board, 9-to-5 & UW researchers**

**November 2005 report**

**Only 25% very poor on W-2**

**DCF leadership requested follow-up study**



# **W-2-Like FS AGs**

**Households**

**Receiving FoodShare**

**At least 1 minor child**

**No reported earnings**

**No reported unearned income**

**Not on W-2**



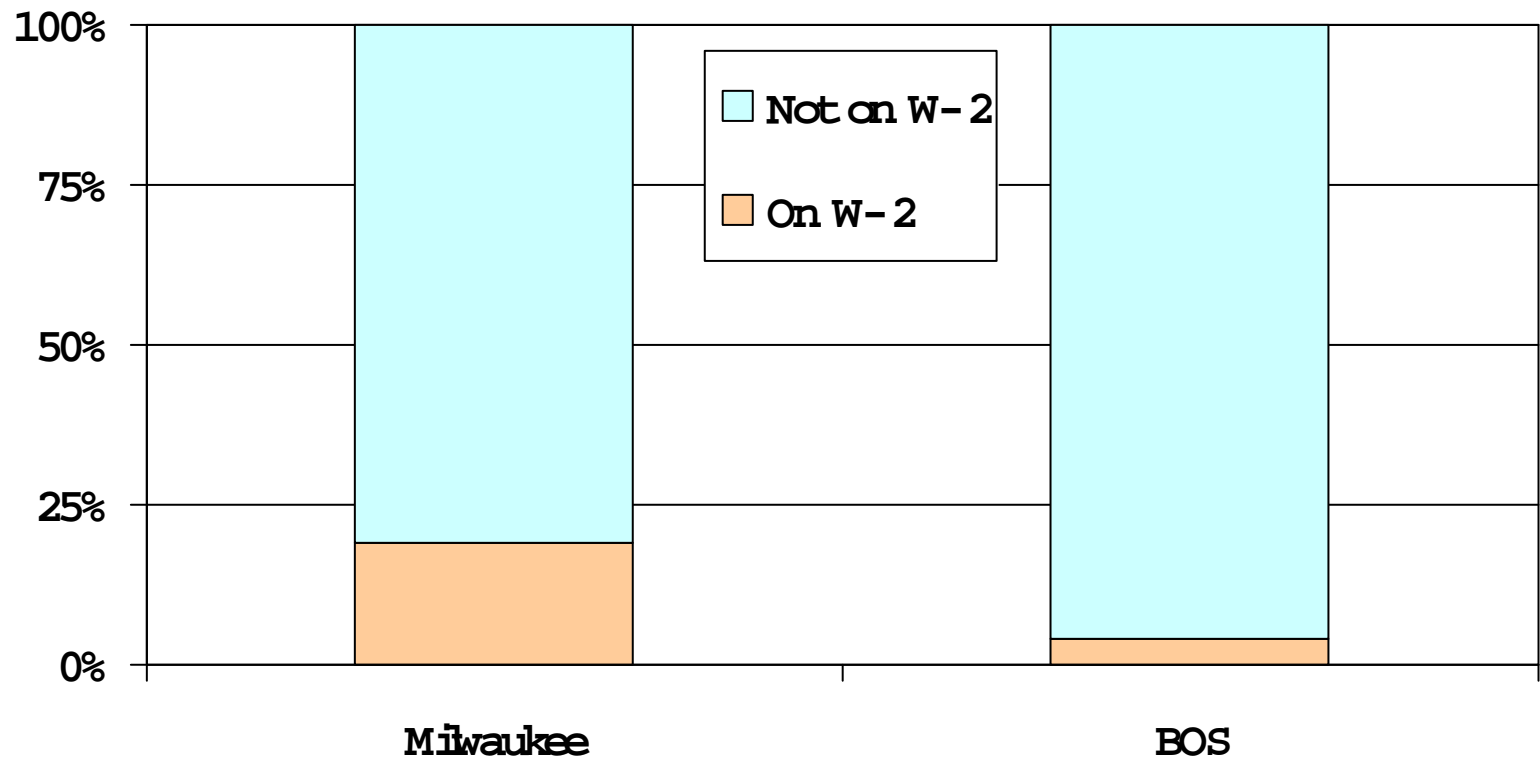
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# W-2-Like FS AGs November 2008

Milwaukee	4,518
Balance of State	8,090
Total	12,608

# Percent W-2-LFSAGs on W-2

## April 2008





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# Study objectives

**Reasons why never apply**

**Reasons why drop out of application process**

**Reasons why don't re-apply**

**How W-2LFSAGs are similar to & different from W-2 population**

**Size & location of potential W-2 population**



# Method

**Convene workgroup**

**Mailed survey of W-2-LFSAGs**

**Follow-up phone interviews with  
selected respondents**

**Analysis of administrative data**



# Reasons why W-2-LFSAGs might not be on W-2

Lack of knowledge

Discouraged from applying

Told no cash grant

Time limits

Not worth effort

Receiving other income

Language barriers



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# Lack of knowledge

Unaware of W-2

Told program doesn't exist

Don't know how to apply

Don't know where to apply



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# Discouraged from applying

Told to apply elsewhere

Discouraged by staff

Unable to do job search

Trouble getting to office

W-2 not what expected

Bad experience with W-2

Don't like welfare



# Told no cash grant

Formerly 'job ready' got no cash grant

“Work first” requirement

Took too long to get cash



# Time limits

Reached time limits

Don't want to use clock



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# Not worth effort

Requirements not worth benefit

Don't think W-2 could help



# Receiving other income

Thought could get job on own

Got job

Getting unreported income



# Language barriers

**Lack of bilingual resources**

**Infrequent languages**

# Survey Sample

	Never on W-2	Once on W-2
Milwaukee	1,000	1,000
Balance of State	1,000	1,000

Wisconsin Works (W-2) Program Survey

Sample group

Please fill out the section that best fits your situation.

If you EVER applied for W-2, please fill out this box:

Why aren't you getting W-2 now? Check all that apply.

- Have other income
- Don't think W-2 could help me or my family
- Thought I could get a job on my own
- Got a job on my own
- Discouraged from applying by agency staff
- Took too long to get any money
- Didn't think the things they made me do were worth the money
- Unable to do the job search or other assignments
- W-2 program was not what I expected
- Had trouble getting to the office
- Don't want to use the limits now
- Reached time limits and thought I was not eligible
- Told by agency staff that I would not get any money
- Told by agency staff I would have to search for work before getting money
- Told by agency staff to apply elsewhere
- Other reason (please explain)

If you NEVER applied for W-2, please fill out this box:

Why haven't you applied for W-2? Check all that apply.

- Have other income
- Didn't think W-2 could help me or my family
- Thought I could get a job on my own
- Got a job on my own
- Didn't know about W-2
- Didn't know where to apply
- Didn't know how to apply
- Didn't think the things they would make me do were worth the money
- Had trouble getting to the office
- Didn't think I'd get any money
- Friends have had bad experiences in the W-2 program
- Have been told the W-2 program doesn't exist in my area
- Don't like the idea or we care
- Other reason (please explain)

We may have a few brief follow-up questions. If it is ok for us to call you, please give us your name and phone number.

Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

When is the best time to call you?  Daytime OR  Evening  
 Weekday OR  Weekend

Thank you for participating in this survey.

Put this completed survey in the blue postage-paid envelope and drop it in the mail by January 27.



# **Timeframe**

**Mailed survey in field January**

**Phone interviews in February**

**Administrative data analysis on-going**

**Report due April 2009**